METHODS OF PREPARING NON-ALCOHOL BIOACTIVE ESSENTIAL OIL MOUTH RINSES

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ABSTRACT

The invention relates generally to liquids such as mouth rinses for the prevention and elimination of bad breath as well as for the reduction of oral microorganisms responsible for the development of dental plaque and tooth decay. In particular, the present invention relates to a method of preparing non-alcohol or reduced alcohol mouth rinses effective at preventing the above-mentioned problems.
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CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application is a divisional of, and claims the benefit of, U.S. non-provisional application Ser. No. 12/827,970 filed Jun. 30, 2010, the complete disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference for all purposes.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The invention relates generally to liquids such as mouth rinses for the prevention and elimination of bad breath as well as for the reduction of oral microorganisms responsible for the development of dental plaque and tooth decay. In particular, the present invention relates to methods of preparing non-alcohol or reduced alcohol mouth rinses effective at preventing the above-mentioned problems.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] Mouth rinse or mouthwash compositions have been used by people for many years for the prevention of bad breath and for the elimination of bacteria and other oral microorganisms that are responsible not only for bad breath but also tooth decay, plaque and gum diseases such as gingivitis and periodontitis. To this end, antiseptic mouthwashes in the past have been designed to clean the oral cavity, provide fresh breath and kill these pathogenic microbes.

[0004] Leading antiseptic mouth rinses have traditionally contained alcohol (i.e., ethanol) at fairly high levels, ranging from approximately 20% up to about 30% by volume, based on the total mouthwash volume (hereinafter referred to as “% v/v”). Alcohol is used both as a vehicle and as a solvent in the active ingredients, and additives such as astringents, fluoride, color additives, flavor oils, and the like, can be dissolved and then dispersed into solution. Alcohol also provides a preservative role for the mouth rinse during storage and use, and enhances the flavor oil organoleptic cues.

[0005] However, the use of high levels of alcohol may sometimes be found unacceptable by some mouthwash users. Senior citizens have also complained about problems related to gargling with such mouth rinses, and chronic exposure has been found to result in a feeling of gum “burn” resulting from the high concentrations of alcohol. It has also been reported that alcoholic mouth rinses can result in an unpleasant “dry mouth” sensation.

[0006] On the other hand, reducing the levels of alcohol in these mouth rinse compositions can have significant disadvantages. Such disadvantages include a reduction in the solubility of the mouth rinse actives and/or the other mouth rinse ingredients.

[0007] For example, it has been found that lowering alcohol concentration (i.e., replacing the alcohol with water) in commercially available mouth rinse compositions can result in cloudy or turbid compositions. Cloudy or turbid compositions present a clear disadvantage from an aesthetic point of view since clear mouth rinse solutions are certainly more preferred by consumers than cloudy, turbid or otherwise heterogeneous ones.

[0008] Additionally, it has been found that lower alcohol concentrations result in a noticeable decrease in the ability of the composition to kill the oral microorganisms responsible for bad breath, plaque and gum disease. This loss in antimicrobial activity is not only due to the reduction of alcohol as a vehicle, but also to the reduced bioavailability of the solubilized actives.

[0009] Thymol, for example, is a well known antiseptic compound, also known as an essential oil, which is utilized for its antimicrobial activity in a variety of mouthwash or mouth rinse preparations. In particular, thymol can be utilized in oral hygiene compositions such as mouth rinses in sufficient quantities to provide desired beneficial therapeutic effects. Mouthwashes with thymol are well-known, and have been used by millions of people for over one hundred years. They have been proven effective in killing microbes in the oral cavity that are responsible for plaque, gingivitis and bad breath. Thymol, together with other essential oils such as methyl salicylate, menthol and eucalyptol, comprise the active component in some antiseptic mouth rinses. These oils achieve good efficacy although present in small amounts. Without being restricted to any specific theory, it is now believed that the efficacy and taste of antiseptic mouth rinses may be due to the improved dispersion or dissolution of the oils and bioavailability after such dispersion or dissolution of these four active ingredients.

[0010] Obviously then, there is a substantial need for the development of a reduced and/or no alcohol mouth rinse and methods of producing the same or other liquids, which are aesthetically pleasing to consumers and provide improved dispersion or dissolution of the essential oils. Thymol and other essential oils maintain the bioavailability of the essential oils for preventing bad breath, killing oral microbes and reducing or eliminating plaque.

[0011] Therefore, an aspect of the present invention is to liquid compositions containing oil or oily components which have reduced turbidity or cloudiness.

[0012] Another aspect of the present invention is to provide mouth rinse compositions which are aesthetically pleasing to consumers and provide improved dispersion or dissolution of the essential oils yet maintain the bioavailability of the essential oils for preventing bad breath, killing oral microbes and reducing or eliminating plaque.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0013] In certain embodiments, the present invention relates to methods for preparing a liquid composition or mouth rinse comprising the steps of:

[0014] a) preparing a first premix composition comprising:

[0015] i. a first oil or oily component;
[0016] ii. optionally, a first polyol solvent, and
[0017] iii. optionally, a flavor;

[0018] b) preparing a second premix composition comprising:

[0019] i. a second oil or oily component having a degree of hydrophobicity less than the degree of hydrophobicity of the first oil or oily component, and
[0020] ii. a second polyol solvent;

[0021] c) preparing a third premix composition comprising:

[0022] i. at least one surfactant, and
[0023] ii. an aqueous phase comprising water;

[0024] d) adding the first premix to the third premix;
[0025] e) mixing the composition of step d) until uniform and homogeneous;

[0026] f) adding the second premix to the composition of step c) and mixing until uniform and homogeneous;
In certain embodiments, the liquid composition or mouth rinse is a reduced alcohol or non-alcohol composition. In further embodiments, a method for preparing a reduced alcohol or non-alcohol, antimicrobial mouth rinse composition is disclosed that exhibits a high level of antimicrobial activity as measured by an M-factor greater than 0.5 (or about 1.0) optionally, 2.0 (or about 2.0), or optionally 3.0 (or about 3.0) where “M-factor” equals the log RLU value of biofilm treated with water used as the negative control minus the log RLU value of biofilm treated with the mouth rinse composition being tested. In addition, the oral mouth rinse compositions of this invention are clear (to the unaided human eye) and aesthetically appealing products.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The liquid or mouth rinse compositions of the present invention can comprise, consist of, or consist essentially of the essential elements and limitations of the invention described herein, as well any of the additional or optional ingredients, components, or limitations described herein. The term “comprising” (and its grammatical variations) as used herein is used in the inclusive sense of “having” or “including” and not in the exclusive sense of “consisting only of.”

The terms “a” and “the” as used herein are understood to encompass the plural as well as the singular.

Unless otherwise indicated, all documents cited are, in relevant part, incorporated herein by reference; the citation of any document is not to be construed as an admission that it is prior art with respect to the present invention. Furthermore, all documents incorporated herein by reference in their entirety are only incorporated herein to the extent that they are not inconsistent with this specification.

The reduced alcohol or non-alcohol mouthwash and mouth rinse compositions described herein provide an antimicrobially effective amount of one or more antimicrobial essential oils towards oral microorganisms responsible for oral malodor and the build-up of plaque and calculus and the resulting tooth and gum diseases that may follow.

The phrase “antimicrobially effective amount” means the concentration or quantity or level of the compound of the present invention that can attain a particular medical end in having toxic activity for oral microorganisms.

The phrase “orally acceptable” means that the carrier is suitable for application to the surfaces of the oral cavity or ingestion by a living organism including, but not limited to, mammals and humans without undue toxicity, incompatibility, instability, allergic response, and the like.

All percentages, parts and ratios are based upon the total weight of the composition of the present invention, unless otherwise specified. All such weights as they pertain to the listed ingredients are based on the level of the particular ingredient described and, therefore, do not include carriers or by-products that may be included in commercially available materials, unless otherwise specified.

The phrase “reduced alcohol” or “reduced level of alcohol” indicates that the liquid compositions are essentially free of alcohol which means the liquid compositions or mouth rinses of the present invention contain an amount of a C3-C4 monohydric alcohol of up to 10% v/v (or about 10% v/v), optionally, up to 5% v/v (or about 5% v/v), optionally, up to 1.0% v/v (or about 1.0% v/v), optionally up to 0.1% v/v (or about 0.1% v/v) by volume of the total composition. Optionally, the compositions of the present invention are free of C5-C4 monohydric alcohols.

The term “sterile water”, as used herein, means sterile water for irrigation/injection U.S.P. The USP designation means that the sterile water for irrigation/injection is the subject of an official monograph in the current (as of the filing date of this application) US Pharmacopeia.

Unless otherwise specified, the phrase “oil(s)” or “oily component(s)” means any hydrophobic, water immiscible compound, including but not limited to, essential oils (such as menthol, thymol, eucalyptol and methyl salicylate), other flavor oils, unsaturated aliphatic long chain alcohols and/or aldehydes such as 1-decen-3-ol; cis-2-nonen-1-ol, trans-2-decenedial and mixtures thereof, other hydrophobic compounds such as organic acids, vitamin E, vitamin E acetate, apigenin, triclosan and mixtures thereof and mixtures of any of the above disclosed hydrophobic, water immiscible compounds.

The terms “hydrophobic,” “hydrophobicity” or “degree of hydrophobicity” of an oil or oily component of the present invention or any mixture of such oil or oily components is represented by the Octanol Water Partition Coefficient (Kow). Kow is the ratio of the concentration by weight of an oil or oily component in the octanol phase and the concentration by weight of the oil or oily component in water phase at equilibrium and at a specified temperature for the biphase octanol and water system. The logarithm of Kow is called the log P. The experimental values used to calculate the Kow are typically measured at a temperature of between 20° C to 25° C.

Alternatively, the log P values are conveniently calculated by the “C LOG P” program, also available from Daylight CIS. This program also lists experimental log P values when they are available in the Pomona92 database. The “calculated log P” (C log P) is determined by the fragment approach of Hansch and Leo (cf. A. Leo, in Comprehensive Medicinal Chemistry, Vol. 4, C. Hansch, P. G. Sammens, I. B. Taylor and C. A. Ramsden, Eds., p. 295, Pergamon Press, 1990, incorporated herein by reference). The fragment approach is based on the chemical structure of each oil or oily component, and takes into account the numbers and types of atoms, the atom connectivity, and chemical bonding. The C log P values, which is considered reliable and a widely used estimate for this physicochemical property, can be used instead of the experimental Kow method for measuring log P values.

The higher the log P of the oil or oily component, the more hydrophobic (or, the greater the degree of hydrophobicity of) the oil or oily component.

The term “turbidity” as used herein means the cloudiness or haziness of a fluid caused by individual particles (suspended solids or liquids) that are generally invisible to the unaided eye. Fluids can contain suspended solid or liquid matter consisting of varying particle size. While some suspended material will be large enough and heavy enough to settle rapidly to the bottom of the container (or separate into distinct layers) if a liquid sample is left to stand, very small particles will settle (or separate out) only very slowly or not at all if the sample is regularly agitated or the particles are colloidal. These small solid or liquid particles cause the liquid to appear turbid.
One property of such particles is that they will scatter a light beam focused on them. This light scattering effect is considered a good measure of turbidity in water. Turbidity measured this way uses an instrument called a Turbidimeter with the detector setup to the side of the light beam. The more particles floating in water, the more light is scattered toward the detector and the higher the value of detected light. A lower value of detected light indicates a clearer or less cloudy solution. The units of turbidity from a calibrated Turbidimeter are called nephelometric turbidity units (NTUs). A clear formulation is defined as a formulation with an NTU of less than 12 (or about 12).

First Premix Composition

The liquid or mouth rinse compositions of the present invention comprise a first premix composition.

In certain embodiments, the first premix composition includes a first oil or oily component and a first polyol solvent.

First Oil or Oily Component

The first premix composition of the present invention comprises a first oil or oily component, the first oil or oily component being any oil or oily component or mixture of such oil or oily components. In certain embodiments, the first oil or oily component has a logP of no less than or greater than 2.1 (or about 2.1), optionally 2.2 (or about 2.2). In certain embodiments such as certain mouth rinse embodiments, the first oil or oily component of the present invention comprises at least one antimicrobial essential oil.

Antimicrobial Essential Oils

In certain embodiments, the enhanced antimicrobial efficacy of non-alcohol mouth rinse compositions as described herein is attributed to the presence of minor amounts of one or more antimicrobial or bioactive essential oils (i.e., thymol, eucalyptol, menthol and methyl salicylate).

Thymol, [(CH₃)₂CH₂CH₂H₂O(H₂),OH, also known as isopropyl-m-cresol], is only slightly soluble in water but is soluble in alcohol, and its presence is one of the reasons alcohol was necessary in the well-established, high alcohol commercial mouth rinses. Methyl salicylate, [C₅H₇OHOCH₂H₃O], also known as wintergreen oil], additionally provides flavoring to the together with its antimicrobial function. Eucalyptol (C₁₀H₁₆O, also known as cineol) is a terpene ether and provides a cooling, spicy taste. Eucalyptol may be used in place of thymol in certain formulations in the same amount if desired. Menthol (CH₃C(H₂)₃C(H₂)O), also known as hexahydrotetrol) is also only slightly soluble in alcohol, and is fairly volatile. Menthol, in addition to any antiseptic properties, provides a cooling, tingling sensation.

In certain embodiments, the essential oils are used in amounts effective to provide antimicrobial activity in the oral cavity. In specific embodiments, the total amount of essential oils present in the disclosed compositions can be from 0.001% (or about 0.001%) to 0.35% (or about 0.35%) w/v, or optionally from 0.16% (or about 0.16%) to 0.28% (or about 0.28%) w/v of the composition.

In certain embodiments, the compositions of the present invention contain thymol and additionally eucalyptol, menthol, or methyl salicylate, or mixtures thereof. Optionally, the composition contains all four of these essential oils.

In certain embodiments, thymol is employed in amounts of from 0.001% (or about 0.001%) to 0.25% (or about 0.25%) w/v, or optionally from 0.04% (or about 0.04%) to 0.07% (or about 0.07%) w/v of the composition. In certain embodiments, eucalyptol may be employed in amounts of from 0.001% (or about 0.001%) to 0.11% (or about 0.11%) w/v, or optionally from 0.085% (or about 0.085%) to 0.10% (or about 0.10%) w/v of the composition. In certain embodiments, menthol is employed in amounts of from 0.001% (or about 0.001%) to 0.25% (or about 0.25%) w/v, or optionally from 0.035% (or about 0.035%) to 0.05% (or about 0.05%) w/v of the composition. In certain embodiments, methyl salicylate is employed in amounts of from 0.001% (or about 0.001%) to 0.08% (or about 0.08%) w/v, or optionally from 0.04% (or about 0.04%) to 0.07% (or about 0.07%) w/v of the composition.

In some embodiments, the carrier for the essential oils (the active ingredients) is typically a water-alcohol mixture, generally water:ethanol. In the past, some antiseptic oral mouth rinse compositions, required ethanol levels of up to 27% w/v. These high levels were necessary to assist the actives in providing the necessary antimicrobial functionality as well as providing a clear, aesthetically attractive liquid medium. Merely reducing the alcohol levels, without the addition of other formulation components, results in a cloudy, less efficacious product.

Without being bound to any theory, it is believed that in these high alcohol level oral compositions, the alcohol solubilizes the antimicrobial essential oils and in so doing acts to keep the essential oils bioactive. The antimicrobial essential oils are more readily dispersed throughout the solution and remain free or unbound to attack pathogenic microbes throughout the oral cavity. Reducing the alcohol levels was believed to adversely affect this enhancement mechanism. In accordance with the present invention, however, it was surprisingly and unexpectedly found that the level of alcohol can be reduced or eliminated without sacrificing antimicrobial efficacy or clarity if the mouth rinse composition contains a solvent system and surfactants as taught herein.

First Polyol Solvent

In certain embodiments, a first polyol solvent is added to the first premix composition. The first polyol solvent comprises a polyol or polyhydric alcohol selected from the group consisting of polyhydric alkanes (such as propylene glycol, glycerin, butylene glycol, hexylene glycol, 1,3-propanediol); polyhydric alkane esters (dipropylene glycol, ethoxydiglycol); polyalkene glycols (such as polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol) and mixtures thereof. In certain embodiments, the polyol solvent can be present in an amount of from 0% to 20.0% (or about 20.0%) w/v, optionally from 1.0% (or about 1.0%) to 15.0% (or about 15.0%) w/v, or optionally from 2.5% (or about 2.5%) to 8.0% (or about 8.0%) w/v of the composition.

Flavors or Flavorants

In certain embodiments, the first premix composition further comprises flavors or flavorants may to modify or magnify the taste of the liquid composition or mouth rinse, or reduce or mask the sharp "bite" or "burn" of ingredients such as thymol. Suitable flavors include, but are not limited to, oil of anise, anethole, benzyl alcohol, spearmint oil, citrus oils,
vanillin and the like may be incorporated. In these embodiments, the amount of flavor oil added to the composition can be from 0.001% (or about 0.001%) to 1.0% (or about 1.0%) w/v, or optionally from 0.01% (or about 0.010%) to 0.30% (or about 0.30%) w/v of the total composition.

[0058] The particular flavors or flavorants, and other taste-improving ingredients, employed will vary depending upon the particular taste and feel desired. Those skilled in the art can select and customize these types of ingredients to provide the desired results.

Second Premix Composition

[0059] The compositions of the present invention further comprise a second premix composition.

[0060] In certain embodiments, the second premix composition comprises a water insoluble component and a second solvent or solvent system comprising, consisting of or consisting essentially of at least one polyol solvent.

Second Oil or Oily Component

[0061] The second premix composition of the present invention comprises a second oil or oily component, the second oil or oily component being any oil or oily component or mixture of such oil or oily components such that the hydrophobicity (or degree of hydrophobicity) of the second oil or oily component is less than the hydrophobicity (or degree of hydrophobicity) of the first oil or oily component. In certain embodiments, the second oil or oily component has a log P of no more than or less than 2.1 (or about 2.1), optionally 2.0 (or about 2.0). In certain embodiments, the second oil or oily component of the present invention is or comprises at least one organic acid. In certain embodiments, the organic acid is used as a buffer or part of a buffering system.

Organic Acid

[0062] Organic acids suitable for use in the compositions of the present invention include, but are not limited to, ascorbic acid, sorbic acid, citric acid, glycolic acid, lactic acid and acetic acid, benzoic acid, salicylic acid, phthalic acid, phenolsulphonphonic acid, succinic acid and mixtures thereof, optionally, the organic acid is selected from the group consisting of benzoic acid, sorbic acid, succinic acid, citric acid and mixtures thereof, or optionally, the organic acid is benzoic acid. In certain embodiments, the organic acid buffer is present in amounts of from 0.001% (or about 0.001% w/v) to 1.0% w/v (or about 1.0% w/v) of the composition.

[0063] When used as buffers or as part of a buffering system, the organic acids are incorporated in amounts that maintain the pH at levels of from 3.0 (or about 3.0) to 8.0 (or about 8.0), optionally from 3.5 (or about 3.5) to 6.5 (or about 6.5), or optionally from 3.5 (or about 3.5) to 5.0 (or about 5.0). Without being limited by any theory, it is believed that these pH levels provide the essential oils with an environment that also maximizes their antimicrobial activity and promotes stability.

[0064] In certain embodiments, the total amount of any oil or oily components present in the disclosed compositions of the present invention should not exceed 1.35% w/v (or about 1.35% w/v) of the total composition. Optionally, the total of all oil or oily components, can be present in an amount of from 0.04% (or about 0.04%) to 1.35% (or about 1.35%) w/v, or optionally from 0.10% (or about 0.10%) to 0.4% (or about 0.4%) w/v of the total composition.

Second Polyol Solvent

[0065] A second polyol solvent is added to the second premix. In certain embodiments, the second polyol solvent can be the same as or different from the first polyol solvent and comprises a polyol or polyhydric alcohol selected from the group consisting of polyhydric alkanes (such as propylene glycol, glycerin, butylene glycol, hexylene glycol, 1,3-propanediol); polyhydric alkane esters (dipropylene glycol, ethoxylglycol); polyalkene glycols (such as polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol) and mixtures thereof. In certain embodiments, the polyol solvent can be present in an amount of from 1% (or about 1%) to 15.0% (or about 15.0%) w/v, or optionally from 2.5% (or about 2.5%) to 8.0% (or about 8.0%) w/v of the composition.

Third Premix Composition

[0066] In certain embodiments, where a first polyol solvent is not added to the first premix, the second polyol solvent can be present in an amount of from 1.0% (or about 1.0%) to 30.0% (or about 30.0%) w/v, or optionally from 5.0% (or about 5.0%) to 15.0% (or about 15.0%) w/v of the composition.

Surfactant

[0067] The compositions of the present invention further comprise a surfactant and in an aqueous phase.

[0068] Suitable examples of surfactants useful in the compositions of the present invention include anionic surfactants, nonionic surfactants, amphoteric surfactants and mixtures thereof.

[0069] Anionic surfactants useful herein include, but are not limited to, sarcosine type surfactants or sarcosinates; taurates such as sodium methyl cocoyl taurate; alkyl sulfates such as sodium trideceth sulfate or sodium lauryl sulfate; sodium lauryl sulfoacetate; sodium lauroyl isethionate; sodium laureth carboxylate; sodium dodecyl benzene-sulfonate and mixtures thereof. Many suitable anionic surfactants are disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 3,959,458, to Agricola, et al., herein incorporated by reference in its entirety.

[0070] Nonionic surfactants which can be used in the compositions of the present invention include, but are not limited to, compounds produced by the condensation of alkylohexyl oxide groups (hydrophilic in nature) with an organic hydrophobic compound which may be aliphatic or alkyl-aromatic in nature. Examples of suitable nonionic surfactants include, but are not limited to, alkyl polyglycosides; block copolymers such as ethylene oxide and propylene oxide copolymers e.g. Poloxamers; ethoxylated hydrogenated castor oils available commercially for example under the trade name CRO-DURET (Corda Inc., Edison, N.J.); Alkyl polyethylene oxide e.g. Polysorbates, and/or; fatty alcohol ethoxylates; polyethylene oxide condensates of alkyl phenols; products derived from the condensation of ethylene oxide with the reaction product of propylene oxide and ethylene diamine; ethylene oxide condensates of aliphatic alcohols; long chain tertiary amine oxides; long chain tertiary phosphate oxides; long chain dialkyl sulfoxides; and mixtures thereof.

[0071] The amphoteric surfactants useful in the present invention include, but are not limited to, derivatives of aliphatic secondary and tertiary amines in which the aliphatic radical can be a straight chain or branched and wherein one of
the aliphatic substituents contains from about 8 to about 18 carbon atoms and one contains an anionic water-solubilizing group, e.g., carboxylate, sulfonate, sulfate, phosphate, or phosphonate. Examples of suitable amphoteric surfactants include, but are not limited alkylamino-dipropionates, alkylamphotolytic acid amphotheates, mono or di, alkylamphotolytic acid amphotheates, mono or di, alkylamidopropyl betaines, alkyl sulfates, alkyl sulfate amphotheates, and mixtures thereof. In certain embodiments, the amphotheric surfactant is selected from the group consisting of alkylamidopropyl betaines, amphotheates such as sodium laurylamphotheate and mixtures thereof. Mixtures of any of the above mentioned surfactants can also be employed. A more detailed discussion of anionic, nonionic and amphotheric surfactants can be found in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,087,650 to Lennon; U.S. Pat. No. 5,084,104 to Martin et al.; U.S. Pat. No. 5,190,747 to Sekiguchi et al.; and U.S. Pat. No. 4,051,234, Gieske, et al., each of which patents are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety.

[0072] In certain embodiments, the liquid or mouth rinse compositions contain at least one alkyl sulfonate surfactant either alone or in addition to at least one of the other above mentioned surfactants. In certain embodiments, suitable alkyl sulfate surfactants include, but are not limited to sulfated C8 to C14, optionally sulfated C10 to C16 even numbered carbon chain length alcohols neutralized with a sodium basic salt such as sodium carbonate or sodium hydroxide and mixtures thereof. In certain embodiments, the alkyl sulfate surfactant has an even number C8 to C16, optionally C10 to C16, chain length. In certain embodiments, the alkyl sulfate is selected from the group consisting of sodium laurel sulfate, hexadecyl sulfate and mixtures thereof. In certain embodiments, commercially available mixtures of alkyl sulfates are used. A typical percentage breakdown of alkyl sulfates by alkyl chain length in commercially available sodium laurel sulfate (SLS) is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alkyl Chain Length</th>
<th>Component Percentage in SLS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C12</td>
<td>&gt;60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C14</td>
<td>20%-35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C16</td>
<td>&lt;10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C18</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[0073] Suitable commercially available mixtures include Stepanol WA-100 NF USP, (Stepan, Northfield, Ill.), Texapon K12 G PH, (Texapon, Cognis, Germany) and mixtures thereof.

[0074] In certain embodiments, the amount of the alkyl sulfate surfactant added to the composition can be from 0.65% (or about 0.65%) to 2.0% (or about 2.0%) w/v, or optionally from 0.1% (or about 0.1%) to 0.5% (or about 0.5%) w/v of the composition.

[0075] The total surfactant concentration should not exceed or should be less than 2% (or about 2%), optionally, the total surfactant concentration should not exceed or should be less than 1.5% (or about 1.5%), optionally, the total surfactant concentration should not exceed or should be less than 1.0% (or about 1.0%), optionally, the total surfactant concentration should not exceed or should be less than 0.5% (or about 0.5%).

Aqueous Phase

[0076] The first premix and the second premix are added to an aqueous phase comprising water to form oil-in-water or water-in-oil dispersions, micro emulsions or emulsions.

[0077] In certain embodiments, the aqueous phase comprises from about 60% to about 95%, or optionally from about 75% to about 93%, by weight of the composition.

[0078] Alternatively, the liquid or mouth rinse compositions of the present invention may be formulated in a dry powder, chewing gum, semi-solid, solid or liquid concentrate form. In such embodiments, for example, water is added to q.s. as necessary in the case of liquid concentrates or powdered formulations, or water may be removed using standard evaporation procedures known in the art to produce a composition in dry powder form. Evaporated, or freeze dried forms are advantageous for storage and shipping.

Sugar Alcohol Solvent

[0079] In certain embodiments, a sugar alcohol is also added to the liquid or mouth rinse compositions of the present invention. The sugar alcohol solvent(s) may be selected from those multi-hydroxy-functional compounds that are conventionally used in oral and ingestible products. In certain embodiments, the sugar alcohol(s) should be non-metabolized and non-fermentable sugar alcohol(s). In specific embodiments, the sugar alcohols include, but are not limited to sorbitol, xylitol, mannitol, malitol, inositol, allitol, alitritol, dulcitol, galactitol, glucitol, xititol, iditol, pentitol, ribitol, erythritol and mixtures thereof. Optionally, the sugar alcohol is selected from the group consisting of sorbitol and xylitol or mixtures thereof. Optionally, the sugar alcohol is sorbitol.

[0080] In certain embodiments, the total amount of sugar alcohol(s), which are added to effectively aid in the dispersion or dissolution of the mouth rinse or other ingredients, should not exceed 20% w/v (or about 20% w/v) of the total composition. Optionally, total amount of sugar alcohol should not exceed 17% w/v (or about 17% w/v) of the total composition. Optionally, total amount of sugar alcohol should not exceed 10% w/v (or about 10% w/v) of the total composition. The sugar alcohol can be in an amount of from 1.0% (or about 1.0%) to 20.0% (or about 20.0%) w/v, optionally from 2.5% (or about 2.5%) to 17.0% (or about 17.0%) w/v, or optionally from 5.0% (or about 5.0%) to 15.0% (or about 15.0%) w/v of the total composition.

[0081] In certain embodiments, the ratio of the sugar alcohol to the total polyol component in the composition should be from 10:1 (or about 10:10) to 1:1 (or about 1:10), optionally from 5:1 (or about 5:1) to 1:5 (or about 1:5), optionally 1:1 (or about 1:1) by weight.

[0082] In certain embodiments, the total amount of the solvent, including all polyol solvents and all sugar alcohol solvents, which is added to effectively aid in the dissolution or dispersion of the mouth rinse or other ingredients, should not exceed 47% w/v (or about 47% w/v) of the total composition. Optionally, total amount of solvent system should not exceed 20% w/v (or about 20% w/v) of the total composition. The solvent system can be in an amount of from 2% (or about 2%) to 47% (or about 47%) w/v, or optionally from 10% (or about 10%) to 20% (or about 20%) w/v of the total composition.
In certain embodiments, the ratio of the total solvent (i.e., polyol solvent and the sugar alcohol solvent) to the total surfactant in the composition should be from 360:1 (or about 360:1) to 10:1 (or about 10:1), optionally from 100:1 (or about 100:1) to 20:1 (or about 20:1) by weight.

**Method of Manufacturing**

Each of the above premixes is mixed until uniform and homogeneous. Once each premix is mixed until uniform and homogeneous, the first premix is added to the third premix and mixed until uniform and homogeneous. Once the mixture of the first premix and third premix are mixed until uniform and homogeneous, the second premix is added to the mixture of the first premix and third premix and mixed until uniform and homogeneous.

Without being limited by theory, it is believed that first oil or oily component and the second oil or oily component compete for the surfactant and solvents in the aqueous phase of the present invention. By first mixing the first oil or oily component of higher degree of hydrophobicity as a polyol solvent premix with an aqueous phase containing surfactant before adding a polyol solvent premix of the second oil or oily component of lower degree of hydrophobicity to the aqueous phase containing surfactant, the first oil or oily component of higher degree of hydrophobicity is mixed with the surfactant and/or solvent to achieve the dispersion and/or dissolution in the aqueous phase required to produce compositions having a turbidity of less than 12 (or about 12) Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTUs). The turbidity of the liquid composition or mouth rinse is further reduced by adding any sugar alcohol solvents after the first and second oil or oily components have been added to an aqueous phase.

In certain embodiments, the liquid or mouth rinse compositions of the present invention have NTU values of less than 10 (or about 10), optionally 8 (or about 8), optionally 6 (or about 6), or optionally 4 (or about 4).

**Optional Ingredients**

In certain embodiments, the oral care compositions of the present invention optionally comprise a safe and effective amount of a water insoluble particulate. The water insoluble particulate can be an abrasive particle (such as a dentally acceptable abrasive) or non-abrasive particulate.

In certain embodiments, dentally acceptable abrasives include, but are not limited to, water insoluble calcium salts such as calcium carbonate, and various calcium phosphates, alumina, silica, synthetic resins and mixtures thereof. Suitable dentally acceptable abrasives may generally be defined as those having a radioactive dentine abrasion value (RDA) of from about 30 to about 250 at the concentrations used in the compositions of the present invention. In certain embodiments, abrasives are non-crystalline, hydrated, silica abrasives, particularly in the form of precipitated silica or milled silica gels available commercially, for example, under the trade names ZEODENT (J. M. Huber Corporation, Edison, N.J.), and SYLODENT (W.R. Grace & Co., New York, N.Y.), respectively. In certain embodiments, the compositions according to the present invention comprise from about 1% to about 20%, or, optionally, from about 5% to about 10% by weight of the abrasive.

Alternatively, the insoluble particulate is a non-abrasive particulate which is visible to the unaided eye and stable in the compositions of the present invention.

The non-abrasive particulate can be of any size, shape, or color, according to the desired characteristic of the product. The non-abrasive particulates will typically have the shape of a small round or substantially round ball or sphere, however, platelet or rod-shaped configurations are also contemplated herein. Generally, a non-abrasive particulate has an average diameter of from about 50 μm to about 5000 μm, optionally from about 100 μm to about 3000 μm, or optionally from about 300 μm to about 1000 μm. By the terms “stable” and/or “stability”, it is meant that the abrasive or non-abrasive particulates are not disintegrated, agglomerated, or separated under normal shelf conditions. In certain embodiments, the terms “stable” and/or “stability” further mean that the compositions of present invention contain no visible or minimally visible (to the unaided eye) signs of sedimentation of the insoluble particulates after 8 weeks, optionally 26 weeks, optionally 52 weeks, at room temperature.

The non-abrasive particulates herein are typically incorporated in the present compositions at levels of from about 0.01% to about 25%, optionally, from about 0.01% to about 5%, or optionally, from about 0.05% to about 3%, by weight of the composition.

The non-abrasive particulate herein will typically comprise a structural material and/or, optionally, an encompassed material.

The structural material provides a certain strength to the non-abrasive particulates so that they retain their distinctively detectable structure in the compositions of the present invention under normal shelf conditions. In one embodiment, the structural material further can be broken and disintegrated with very little shear on the teeth, tongue or oral mucosa upon use.

The non-abrasive particulates can be solid or liquid, filled or un-filled, as long as they are stable in the compositions of the present invention. The structural material used for making the non-abrasive particulates varies depending on the compatibility with other components, as well as material, if any, to be encompassed in the non-abrasive particulates. Exemplary materials for making the non-abrasive particulates herein include: polyacrylic acid and saccharide derivatives such as crystalline cellulose, cellulose acetate, cellulose acetate butyrate, cellulose acetate phthalate, cellulose nitrate, ethylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, hydroxyethylcellulose, methyl cellulose, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, gum acacia (gum arabic), agar, agarose, maltodextrin, sodium alginate, calcium alginate, dextran, starch, galactose, glucosamine, cyclodextrin, chitin, amylose, amylopectin, glycogen, laminaran, lichenan, curdlan, inulin, levul, pectin, mannan, xylan, alginic acid, arabic acid, gellanmanna, agarose, agaropeptin, propyran, carrageenan, fucoidan, glycosaminoglycan, hyaluronic acid, chondroitin, peptidoglycan, lipopolysaccharide, guar gum, starch, and starch derivatives; oligosaccharides such as sucrose, lactose, maltose, fructose, sucrose, maltose, fructose, sucrose, and mannose; synthetic polymers such as acrylic polymers and copolymers including polyacrylamide, poly(alkyl cyanoacrylate), and poly(ethylene-vinyl acetate), and carboxyvinyl polymer, polyanide, poly(methyl vinyl ether-ma-
leic anhydride), poly(adipl1-L-lysine), polycarbonate, poly-
terephthalalmine, polyvinyl acetate phthalate, poly
terephthaloxy-L-lysine), polyarylsulfone, poly
(methylmethacrylate), allyl methacrylate, poly(8-
caprolactone), polyvinylpyrrolidone, polydimethylsiloxane,
polyoxyethylene, polyester, polyglycolic acid, polyactic
acid, polyglutamic acid, polyleucine, polylactide, poly(sty-
rene-acrylonitrile), polyisoprene, and poly(vinyl alcohol); and
other material such as fat, fatty acid, fatty alcohol, milk solids,
molasses, gelatin, gluten, albumin, shellac, casein, beeswax,
carnauba wax, spermaceri wax, hydrogenated tallows,
glycerol monopalmitate, glycerol dipalmitate, hydrogenated
castor oil, glycerol monostearate, glycerol distearate, glyc-
erol tristearate, 12-hydroxystearic alcohol, protein, and pro-
tein derivatives; and mixtures thereof. Components herein
may be described in other sections as useful components for
the present composition. In certain embodiments, the com-
ponents as described in this section form the structure of the
non-abrasive particulates so as to not be substantially dis-
solved or dispersed from the particulates and into the com-
positions of the present invention under normal shelf con-
tions.

[0095] In other embodiments, the structural material herein
comprises components selected from the group consisting of
dye, saccharides, and their derivatives, saccharides and their
derivatives, saccharides, and mixtures thereof, or optionally, comprises components containing various
degrees of water solubility. In some embodiments, the
structural material comprises lactose, cellulose, and hydroxy-
propyl methylcellulose.

[0096] Suitable non-abrasive particulates also include organogel
particles as described in detail in U.S. Pat. No. 6,797,683. Non-abrasive particulates that are organogel parti-
culates typically comprise a structural material selected from
waxes (e.g., beeswax, paraffin, water-insoluble wax, carbon-
based wax, silicone wax, microcrystalline wax, etc.), triglycer-
erides, acid triglycerides, polymers, fluororoxy (methacry-
late polymers and copolymers, acrylate polymers, ethylene/ acrylate copolymers, polyethylene, polypropylene polymers
and copolymers, fatty acids, fatty alcohols, fatty acid esters,
acid amides, alkylene-polyhydroxy alco-
ols, fatty acid amide of an alkanoamide, glycercyl
monostearate, (aryl-sulfated) sugars, dibenzyl borate (or manno-
tol, rabbit, etc.), condensates and precondensates of
lower monohydric alcohols, trihydroxy alcohols, lower poly-
hydric, propylene/ethylene polycondensates, and the like.
Optionally, structural material for non-abrasive particulates that are organogel particles include beeswax, carnauba wax,
low molecular weight ethylene homopolymers (e.g., Polywax
500, Polywax 1000, or Polywax 2000 polyethylene materials
available from Baker Petroleum Corp.), or paraffin wax.

[0097] The non-abrasive particulates herein may encom-
pass, contain, or be filled with an encompassed material. Such
encompassed material can be water soluble or water
insoluble. Suitable encompassed materials include benefit
agents as described herein such as: oral care actives, vitamins,
pigments, dyes, antimicrobial agents, chelating agents, opti-
cal brighteners, flavors, perfumes, humectants, minerals, and
mixtures thereof. The encompassed materials herein are sub-
stantially retained within the non-abrasive particulates, and
are substantially not dissolved from the particulates and into
the compositions of the present composition under normal shelf conditions.

[0098] Particularly useful commercially available non-
abrasive particulates herein are those with tradenames Uni-
sphere and Unicerin available from Induchem AG (Switz-
erland), and Confetti Dermal Essentials available from United-
Guardian Inc. (NY, USA). Unisphere and Unicerin particles
are made of microcrystalline cellulose, hydroxypropyl cellul-
ose, lactose, vitamins, pigments, and proteins. Upon use, the
Unisphere and Unicerin particles can be disintegrated with
very little shear and with practically no resistance, and readily
dispense in the compositions of the present invention.

[0099] Suitable non-abrasive particulates for incorporation in
the present compositions are described in detail in U.S. Pat.
No. 6,797,683 (organogel particles); U.S. Pat. No. 6,645,813
(rupturable beads); U.S. 2004/0047822 A1 (visible capsules);
and U.S. Pat. No. 6,106,815 (capsulated or particulated oily
substances), each of which patent documents are herein
incorporated by reference in their entirety.

[0100] In certain embodiments, the abrasive and/or non-
abrasive particles have a density different or, optionally, sub-
stantially different from the carrier in which these particles
are formulated.

Fluoride Releasing Compounds

[0101] In certain embodiments, fluoride providing com-
ounds may be present in the mouth rinse compositions of
this invention. These compounds may be slightly water
soluble or may be fully water soluble and are characterized
by their ability to release fluoride ions or fluoride containing ions
in water. Typical fluoride providing compounds are inorganic
fluoride salts such as soluble alkali metal, alkaline earth
metal, and heavy metal salts, for example, sodium fluoride,
potassium fluoride, ammonium fluoride, cupric fluoride, zinc
fluoride, stannic fluoride, barium fluoride, sodium hexafluorosilicate, ammonium hexafluorosilicate, sodium fluorozirconate, sodium monofluorophosphate, aluminum mono-and difluorophosphate and fluorinated sodium calcium pyrophosphate. Amine fluorides, such as N'-octade-
cylylmethylene diamine-N,N,N,N'- tris(2-ethyl) dihydroflu-
oride and 9-oxo decenediamine-hydrofluoride, may also be
used.

[0102] In certain embodiments, the fluoride providing comp-
ound is generally present in an amount sufficient to rele-
sce up to 0.15% (or about 0.15%), optionally 0.001% (or
about 0.001%) to 0.1% (or about 0.1%), optionally from
0.001% (or about 0.001%) to 0.05% (or about 0.05%) fluoride
by weight of the composition.

Zinc Salts

[0103] In certain embodiments, zinc salts such as zinc chlor-
ide, zinc acetate or zinc citrate may be added as an astringent
for an "antiseptic cleaning" feeling, as a breath protection
enhancer or as anticalcific agent in an amount of from
0.0025% w/v (or about 0.0025% w/v) to 0.1% w/v (or about
0.1% w/v) of the composition.

Sensitivity Reducing Agents

[0104] In certain embodiments, sensitivity reducing agents,
namely potassium salts of nitrate and oxalate in an amount
from 0.1% (or about 0.1%) to 5.0% (or about 5.0%) w/v of
the composition may be incorporated into the present invention.
Other potassium releasing compounds are feasible (e.g. KCl).
High concentrations of calcium phosphates may also provide
some added sensitivity relief. These agents are believed to
work by either forming an occlusive surface mineral deposit on the tooth surface or through providing potassium to the nerves within the teeth to depolarize the nerves. A more detailed discussion of suitable sensitivity reducing can be found in US 20060015778 to Hodosh and U.S. Pat. No. 6,416,745 to Markowitz et al., both of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety.

Anticcalculus Agents

[0105] In certain embodiments, compounds with anti-calculus benefits (e.g., polyphosphates, phosphonates, various carboxylates, polyaspartic acid, inositol phosphate etc.) may be incorporated into the present invention. Also useful as an anticcalculus agent are the anionic polymeric polycarboxylates. Such materials are well known in the art, being employed in the form of their free acids or partially or preferably fully neutralized water soluble alkali metal (e.g. potassium and preferably sodium) or ammonium salts. Preferred are 1:4 to 4:1 by weight copolymers of maleic anhydride or acid with another polymerizable ethylenically unsaturated monomer, preferably methyl vinyl ether (methyl vinyl ether) having a molecular weight (M.W.) of about 30,000 to about 1,000,000. These copolymers are available for example as Gantrez AN 139 (M.W. 500,000), AN 119 (M.W. 250,000) and preferably S-97 Pharmaceutical Grade (M.W. 70,000), of GAF Chemicals Corporation.

Additional Ingredients

[0106] Although the liquid or mouth rinse compositions of the present invention may be formulated to be substantially clear and/or colorless to the unaided eye, acceptably approved food dyes are preferably used to provide a pleasing color to the compositions of the invention. These may be selected from, but not limited to, the long list of acceptable food dyes. Suitable dyes for this purpose include FD&C yellow #5, FD&C yellow #10, FD&C blue #1 and FD&C green #3. These are added in conventional amounts, typically in individual amounts of from 0.00001% w/v (or about 0.00001% w/v) to 0.0008% w/v (or about 0.0008% w/v), optionally from 0.00005% w/v (or about 0.0005% w/v) to 0.0005% w/v (or about 0.0005% w/v) of the composition.

[0107] Other conventional ingredients may be used in the liquid or mouth rinse compositions of this invention, including those known and used in the art. Examples of such ingredients include thickeners, suspending agents and softeners. Thickeners and suspending agents useful in the compositions of the present invention can be found in U.S. Pat. No. 5,328,682 to Pullen et al., wherein incorporated by reference in its entirety. In certain embodiments, these are incorporated in amounts of from 0.1% w/v (about 0.1% w/v) to 0.6% w/v (or about 0.6% w/v), optionally 0.5% w/v (or about 0.5% w/v) of the composition.

[0108] A more detailed description of useful oral care actives and/or inactive ingredients and further examples thereof can be found in U.S. Pat. No. 6,682,722 to Majeti et al. and U.S. Pat. No. 6,121,315 to Nair et al., each of which are herein incorporated by reference in its entirety.

[0109] In certain embodiments, the compositions of the present invention are free of or essentially free of bioavailability affecting compounds. As used herein, "bioavailability affecting compound" means compounds that negatively affect the bioavailability of any incorporated essential oils such as by binding the essential oils or otherwise inactivating the essential oils. "Essentially free" as used with respect to bioavailability affecting compounds is defined as formulations having less than 5% (or about 5%), optionally, 3% (or about 3%), optionally, 1% (or about 1%), or optionally 0.1%, or optionally 0.01% (or about 0.01%), by weight (w/v) of the total composition of a bioavailability affecting compound. In certain embodiments, the bioavailability affecting compound can include, but is not limited to, polyethylene oxide/polypropylene oxide block copolymer such as poloxamers; cyclodextrins; polysorbates such as Tween; and mixtures thereof.

Methods of Practicing the Present Invention

[0110] The invention illustratively disclosed herein may be practiced in the absence of any component, ingredient, or step which is not specifically disclosed herein.

[0111] In certain embodiments, the compositions of the present invention are applied to teeth and/or soft surfaces of the oral cavity for at least two consecutive applications, optionally, at least (or greater than) 3 (or about 3) or optionally, at least (or greater than) 5 (or about 5) consecutive applications.

[0112] When applied to teeth and/or soft surfaces of the oral cavity, in certain embodiments, the composition is allowed to remain in contact with the teeth and/or soft surfaces of the oral cavity for at least (or greater than) 10 (or about 10) seconds, optionally 20 (or about 20) seconds, optionally 30 (or about 30) seconds, optionally 50 (or about 50) seconds, or optionally 60 (or about 60) seconds.

[0113] Various embodiments of the invention have been set forth above. Each embodiment is provided by way of explanation of the invention, not limitation of the invention. In fact, whether it is apparent to those skilled in the art that various modifications and variations can be made in the present invention without departing from the scope or spirit of the invention. For instance, features illustrated or described as part of one embodiment, can be used on another embodiment to yield a still further embodiment. Thus, it is intended that the present invention cover such modifications and variations as come within the scope of the appended claims and their equivalents.

EXAMPLES

[0114] The following examples are illustrative only and should not be construed as limiting the invention in any way. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that variations are possible which are within the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

Example 1

Effect of Various Methods of Forming Formulations, and Increasing Surfactant Levels

[0115] Nine propylene-glycol based mouth rinse formulations were prepared by a variety of methods using various surfactants that are approved for use in oral care products. The formulations were tested for turbidity and antimicrobial activity. Turbidity was tested using a Laboratory Turbidimeter Model 2100N from Hach Company (Loveland, Colo.). The formulations were also tested using an in vitro single species S. mutans biofilm model. A 22-hour S. mutans biofilm was grown (N=96) and exposed to the formulations as well as positive and negative controls for 30 seconds. Sterile water was used as the negative control. After treatment the biofilm
was neutralized and rinsed. The biofilm was harvested via sonication using a Misonix XL-2000 Ultrasonic processor (Qsonica, LLC, Newtown, Conn.). Using a Celsis Rapid Detection RapiScreen kit (Celsis International PLC, Chicago), the bacteria was lysed with Celsis Luminex and the ATP from the bacteria was measured using the bioluminescence marker Celsis LuminAxC. Decreasing log RLUs (relative light units) indicates fewer bacteria alive after treatment. The nine formulations are shown on Table 1. Final formulations were adjusted to pH 4.2 with 0.1M NaOH or 0.1M HCl if necessary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Formulations</th>
<th>1A (% w/w)</th>
<th>1B (% w/w)</th>
<th>1C (% w/w)</th>
<th>1D (% w/w)</th>
<th>1E (% w/w)</th>
<th>1F (% w/w)</th>
<th>1G (% w/w)</th>
<th>1H (% w/w)</th>
<th>1I (% w/w)</th>
<th>Negative Control</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Propylene glycol</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>7.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>USP</td>
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<tr>
<td>L-Menthol USP</td>
<td>0.0413</td>
<td>0.0413</td>
<td>0.0413</td>
<td>0.0413</td>
<td>0.0413</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thymol NF</td>
<td>0.0620</td>
<td>0.0620</td>
<td>0.0620</td>
<td>0.0620</td>
<td>0.0620</td>
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<td>0.0620</td>
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<tr>
<td>Methyl salicylate</td>
<td>0.0641</td>
<td>0.0641</td>
<td>0.0641</td>
<td>0.0641</td>
<td>0.0641</td>
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<td>0.0641</td>
<td>0.0641</td>
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<tr>
<td>NF</td>
<td>0.0895</td>
<td>0.0895</td>
<td>0.0895</td>
<td>0.0895</td>
<td>0.0895</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eucalyptol USP</td>
<td>0.1000</td>
<td>0.1000</td>
<td>0.1000</td>
<td>0.1000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flavor</td>
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<td>Sorbitol (70%)</td>
<td>10.000</td>
<td>10.000</td>
<td>10.000</td>
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<tr>
<td>solution USP</td>
<td>0.3150</td>
<td>0.3150</td>
<td>0.3150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sodium Lactyl</td>
<td>0.3150</td>
<td>0.3150</td>
<td>0.3150</td>
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<td>0.3150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sulfate USP</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poloxamer 407 NF</td>
<td>—</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tween 20</td>
<td>—</td>
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<td>Sodium Saccharin USP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sucrose NF</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benzoic Acid USP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sodium Benzoate</td>
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<td>NF</td>
<td>0.00002</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Purified Water USP</td>
<td>Q8</td>
<td>Q8</td>
<td>Q8</td>
<td>Q8</td>
<td>Q8</td>
<td>Q8</td>
<td>Q8</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
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<td>—</td>
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<tr>
<td>log RLU</td>
<td>6.01</td>
<td>5.46</td>
<td>5.45</td>
<td>7.64</td>
<td>7.68</td>
<td>5.49</td>
<td>5.62</td>
<td>5.52</td>
<td>5.55</td>
<td>7.67</td>
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<tr>
<td>M-factor</td>
<td>1.66</td>
<td>2.21</td>
<td>2.22</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>-0.01</td>
<td>2.18</td>
<td>2.05</td>
<td>2.15</td>
<td>2.12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Turbidity (NTU)</td>
<td>11.4</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>2.22</td>
<td>16.1</td>
<td>3.93</td>
<td>15.9</td>
<td>17.2</td>
<td>—</td>
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</table>

Formulation 1A: The water was put in an appropriately sized tank (or vessel), then all remaining ingredients were added to the water and mixed until dispersed. No separate premixes were formed.

Formulation 1B: In step 1, the polyol solvent (i.e., propylene glycol) was put in an appropriately sized tank (or vessel). The active oils and flavor were added to the polyol solvent in the tank and mixed until homogeneous and uniform to form a premix. In step 2, instead of adding as the final component in the final step of the formulation process, the sugar alcohol was added to the premix and mixed until the formulation was homogeneous and uniform before adding the surfactant, water, organic acid buffer, preservative, sweeteners and dyes. In step 3, the surfactant was added to the premix and mixed until the formulation was homogeneous and uniform. In step 4, the water was added to the premix and mixed until the formulation was homogeneous and uniform. In step 5, the organic acid buffer, preservative, and sweeteners were added to the premix, and mixed until homogeneous and uniform. In step 6, the dye was added to the premix and mixed until the formulation was homogeneous and uniform.

Formulation 1C, 1D, and 1E: In step 1, the polyol solvent (i.e., propylene glycol) was put in an appropriately sized tank (or vessel). The organic acid buffer was added to the polyol solvent to form a premix and mixed until homogeneous and uniform. In step 2, instead of forming a second premix of active oil and a second polyol solvent and adding the second premix to a third premix comprising water, surfactant, preservative and sweetener, the active oils and flavor were added directly to the first premix and mixed until homogeneous and uniform. In step 3, the sugar alcohol co-solvent was added to the first premix and mixed until the formulation was homogeneous and uniform.

Formulation 1F: In step 1, in a first appropriately sized tank (or vessel), a first premix was formed by adding 5% first polyol solvent (i.e., propylene glycol) to active oils and flavor and mixed until they were homogeneous and uniform. In step 2, in a second appropriately sized tank (or vessel), a second premix was formed by adding 2.0% second polyol solvent which was the same as the first polyol solvent to an organic acid buffer and mixed in the second tank until homogeneous and uniform. In step 3, instead of adding as the final component in the final step of the formulation process, the sugar alcohol solvent was added and mixed directly into the first premix until homogeneous and uniform before adding the surfactant, water, preservative, sweeteners and dyes. In step 4, the surfactant was added and mixed into the first premix.
premix until the formulation was homogeneous and uniform. In step 5, the water was added and mixed into the first premix until the formulation was homogeneous and uniform. In step 6, the second premix was added to the first premix and mixed until the formulation was homogeneous and uniform. In step 7, the preservative and sweeteners were added, and mixed until homogeneous and uniform. In step 8, the dye was added and mixed until the formulation was homogeneous and uniform.

[0121] Formulation 1G (using the inventive process): In step 1, in a first appropriately sized tank (or vessel), a premix was formed by adding 5.0% first polyol solvent (i.e., propylene glycol), active oils and flavor and mixed until homogeneous and uniform. In step 2, in a second appropriately sized tank (or vessel), a second premix was formed by adding to an organic acid buffer 2.0% second polyol solvent which was the same as the first polyol solvent and mixed until homogeneous and uniform. In step 3, in a third appropriately sized tank (or vessel), a third premix was formed by adding surfactant, preservative and sweeteners to water and mixing until homogeneous and uniform. In step 4, the first premix was added to the third premix and mixed until homogeneous and uniform. In step 5, the second premix was added to the mixture of the first and third premixes and mixed until homogeneous and uniform. In step 6, the dye was added to the mixture of the three premixes and mixed until homogeneous and uniform. In step 7, the sugar alcohol was added as the final component to the mixture of the three premixes and mixed until the final mixture was homogeneous and uniform.

[0122] Formulation 1H: In step 1, in a first appropriately sized tank (or vessel), instead of forming separate premixes (one premix containing the active oils and the other premix containing the organic acid buffer), a first premix was formed by adding both organic acid buffer and active oils to a polyol solvent (i.e., propylene glycol) and flavor and mixing until homogeneous and uniform. In step 2, in a second appropriately sized tank (or vessel), instead of adding as the final component in the final step of the formulation process, the sugar alcohol solvent was added to surfactant, preservative, sweeteners and water and mixed until homogeneous and uniform to form a second premix. In step 3, the first premix was added to the second premix and mixed until homogeneous and uniform. In step 4, the dye was added to the mixture of the two premixes and mixed until homogeneous and uniform.

[0123] Formulation 1I: In step 1, in a first appropriately sized tank (or vessel), a first premix was formed by adding 5.0% first polyol solvent (i.e., propylene glycol) to active oils and flavor and mixed until homogeneous and uniform. In step 2, in a second appropriately sized tank (or vessel), a second premix was formed by adding 2.0% second polyol solvent which was the same as the first polyol solvent to an organic acid buffer and mixed until homogeneous and uniform. In step 3, a third appropriately sized tank (or vessel), a third premix was formed by adding surfactant, sorbitol, preservative and sweeteners water and mixing until homogeneous and uniform. In step 4, instead of adding the first premix to the third premix, the second premix was added to the third premix and mixed until homogeneous and uniform. In step 5, the first premix is added to the mixture of the second premix and third premix and mixed until homogeneous and uniform. In step 6, the dye was added and mixed until uniform.

[0124] In addition to the listing the formulation ingredients, Table 1 shows the results of the turbidity test, in Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU), and S. mutans biofilm kill tests, in log RLU and M-Factor units. A typical M-factor for a commercially available alcohol containing essential oil mouth rinse is about 1.87 (log RLU of 5.8) in this model. [0125] Table 1 also shows that all formulations containing sodium laurel sulfate (Formulations 1A, 1B, 1C and 1F through 1I) displayed high bioidal activity (M-factor between 1.66 and 2.22). However, the turbidity of all three sodium laurel sulfate formulations (1A, 1B, and 1C) was high (NTU greater than about 10.5). When the total surfactant concentration level was raised to 2.0% (Formulations 1D and 1E), the turbidity improved, however, at such a high surfactant concentration level, the bioidal activity, as measured by M-factor, decreased substantially (M-factor=0.03 and -0.01, respectively). Only the formulation formed by the inventive processes of the present invention (Formulation 1G) provided both good efficacy (M-factor=-2.05) and the lowest turbidity (NTU less than 4.0).

What is claimed is:

1. A method for preparing a liquid composition comprising the steps of:
   a) preparing a first premix composition comprising:
      i. a first oil or oil component;
      ii. optionally, a first polyol solvent,
      iii. optionally, a flavor;
   b) preparing a second premix composition comprising:
      i. a second oil or oily component having a degree of
         hydrophobicity less than the degree of hydrophobicity
         of the first oil or oily component; and
      ii. a second polyol solvent;
   c) preparing a third premix composition comprising:
      i. at least one surfactant; and
      ii. an aqueous phase comprising water;
   d) adding the first premix to the third premix;
   e) mixing the composition of step d) until uniform and homogeneous; and
   f) adding the second premix to the composition of step e) and mixing until uniform and homogeneous.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the liquid composition is essentially free of alcohol.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein a sugar alcohol solvent is added to the composition of step f) and the composition mixed until uniform and homogeneous.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the first oil or oily component is an antimicrobial essential oil selected from the group consisting of menthol, eucalyptol, methyl salicylate, thymol and mixtures thereof.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the antimicrobial essential oils are a mixture of menthol, eucalyptol, methyl salicylate and thymol.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the second oil or oily component is an organic acid selected from the group consisting of ascorbic acid, sorbic acid, citric acid, glycolic acid, lactic acid and acetic acid, benzoic acid, salicylic acid, phthalic acid, phenolsulphonlic acid, succinic acid and mixtures thereof.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the second oil or oily component is an organic acid is selected from group consisting of benzoic acid.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second polyol solvent is selected from the group consisting of polyhydric alcohols, polyhydric alkane esters, polyalkene glycols and mixtures thereof.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the first and second polyol solvent is polyhydric alkane.
10. The method of claim 9, wherein the polyhydric alkane is propylene glycol.

11. The method of claim 3, wherein the sugar alcohol solvent is selected from as the group consisting of xylitol, sorbitol, mannitol, maltitol, inositol, allitol, alltritol, dulcitol, galactitol, glucitol, heptitol, iditol, pentitol, ribitol, erythritol and mixtures thereof.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the sugar alcohol solvent is sorbitol.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the composition of step (g.) has a turbidity of less than about 12 Nephelometric Turbidity Units.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the composition of step (g.) has a turbidity of less than about 10 Nephelometric Turbidity Units.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the composition of step (g.) has a turbidity of less than about 8 Nephelometric Turbidity Units.

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